Year-wise linkages of coal, accorded by SLC (ST) to Gujarat Electricity Board, from Korba (Mainline) and Korea Rewa Coalfields are given below :

(Figures in Lakh tonnes)

Year	Linkage			% of Total Linkage	
	K-Rewa	Korba	Total	K-Rewa	Korba
1	2	3	4	5	6
1996-97	55.50	57.45	112.95	49	51
1997-98	53.55	75.00	128.55	42	58
1998-99	53.40	75.00	128.40	42	58
1999-2000	52.05	95.30	147.35	35	65
2000-2001	36.60	81.55	118.15	31	69

(c) Coal from mainline Korba Coalfields is cheaper than that of Korea-Rewa. Therefore, the change in the pattern of linkage would mean less coal cost for GEB.

Arsenic contamination of Damodar river by coal mine projects

3987. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Damodar river is being heavily contaminated due to flow of arsenic from the coal mine projects located on both of river in Dakra and Rajrappa in Hazaribagh and in Bokaro;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) The ambient quality of Damodar river is monitored on a regular basis in North Karanpura coalfields where Dakra mine is situated and in Ramgarh coalfields where Rajrappa mine is situated. So far arsenic has never been found beyond the tolerance limit statutorily prescribed. IIT, Kharagpur has carried out tests of the various samples collected in command area of Central Coalfields Limited.

(d) Even though arsenic concentration in Damodar river is well below the permissible limit, the following precautionary measures have been taken while mining :

1. Plantation is done on over burden to check the soil erosion.
2. No mining effluents are allowed to enter into the river directly.
3. Washery effluents are passed through several settling tanks before recycling and are not allowed to enter into the river.

Employees of NCL who died in harness

†3988. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of employees in the Northern Coalfields Ltd., Singrauli who had died in harness during the last three years;

(b) the number of those out of the above who died in accidents;

(c) the number of those deceased whose dependents have been provided with job and compensation, so far; and

(d) by when the dependents of all deceased would be provided with job and compensation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, total 168 employees died during the last three years.

(b) Out of above, 12 employees were killed in accidents.

(c) Total 102 dependents of deceased employees have been provided with employment in the NCL. So far as compensation is concerned, this is payable only in case of death of employees in accidents and as per provisions of Workman Compensation Act, amount of compensation in all the accidental death cases have been deposited with the office of Workman Compensation Commissioner wherefrom the amount is disbursed to the legal heir of the deceased employees. Further, provision exists in NCWA for monetary compensation to the dependent ladies. Accordingly, one dependent lady has been provided with monetary compensation instead of employment.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.